

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00090 241519Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----119147 241542Z /47 R
R 240813Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6628
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0090

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SF
SUBJECT: MAC FLIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE 013374, (B) 77 PRETORIA 5897,

1. IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING BASED ON THE OCT. 28 MESSAGE TO DAO FROM DET-1 PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE (REF B) THAT USAF FELT THE MAC FLIGHTS TO JOHANNESBURG WERE UNECONOMICAL. THE EMBASSY ITSELF CANNOT JUSTIFY CONTINUATION OF THE FLIGHTS AT THE PRESENT LEVEL. AS NOTED IN OUR EARLIER MESSAGE, THE TRANSPORTATION OF SECURITY, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND OTHER ITEMS COULD POSSIBLY JUSTIFY OCCASIONAL FLIGHTS.

2. SHOULD THE SAG DECIDE IT WISHES TO CURTAIL OR BAN SUCH FLIGHTS FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THE FACT THAT WE WOULD HAVE CONTINUED THE FLIGHTS AT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN THE PAST WOULD PROBABLY MAKE NO SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE IN THEIR DECISION. IF, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD CEASE THE FLIGHTS ALTOGETHER OR SHIFT TO IRREGULAR OCCASIONAL FLIGHTS, THE SAG MIGHT FIND IT EASIER TO RESIST RESUMPTION OR A RETURN TO MORE FREQUENT SCHEDULING. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE RETAIN
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A REGULAR SCHEDULE BUT AT A MUCH REDUCED FREQUENCY. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE COULD REVIEW THE JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUING AT THIS REDUCED LEVEL.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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